What determines the status of women in different societies and communities? What role is played by women’s labor (inside and outside of the home)? By cultural norms regarding sexuality and reproduction? By racial/ethnic identity? By religious traditions? After some brief theoretical grounding, this course will address these questions by examining the economic, political, social, and cultural histories of women in the various racial/ethnic groups that make up the US today.

REQUIRED TEXTS  All required and most recommended texts are on reserve in the library.

Recommended Texts
EXPECTATIONS and ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attendance: Consistent attendance at lectures and group conferences is important. However, if you have a respiratory illness (cough, cold, etc.), please do NOT come to class. Email me before class begins to receive an excused (though recorded) absence.

--I will attempt to have the lectures recorded. If you notify me in advance and submit a one-page summary of the lecture you missed, you will be counted as present for the class.

--*If there is an assignment due on a day when you must miss class, you must email it to me before class.

2. Review questions: After every lecture, I will send out review questions and a list of upcoming assignments. Please review these questions carefully; you do not need to write out the answers.

3. Academic freedom: I strive to maintain a classroom atmosphere where people can voice their opinions, questions, disagreements, and concerns. I have strong opinions about many of the topics we’ll be discussing. However, you will never be penalized (re: grades, evaluations, etc.) for disagreeing with me.

4. Academic integrity: Be careful to avoid committing plagiarism, the intentional or unintentional use of another’s words or ideas without proper attribution (citation, footnote, etc.). If you are confused about proper citation format, please ask!

5. Disabilities: If you have a physical, learning, or other disability that requires accommodation, please register with Associate Dean of Studies and Disability Services Polly Waldman and speak to me immediately. We will work together to make necessary accommodations. Requests must be made early in the school year.

6. Assignments: The primary assignments for this course will consist of a series of “review essays.” Although these will focus on the lecture material, you should include relevant material from the readings.

--Unless you are ill, submit a stapled, double-spaced hard copy of each assignment. (If you are ill, email me your assignment by class time on the due date.)

--Timing of the assignments will depend on our progress in lecture. You will be given at least one week’s notice before a paper is due. Late papers will be graded down one whole grade for each day (or portion thereof) that the paper is late.

--If your paper contains an unacceptable number of grammatical/style errors, it will be returned for mandatory revision. You will have one week to revise; please submit the original paper with the revision. If your paper is returned for rewrite, I highly recommend that you visit the Writing Center for assistance.

--Please bring this syllabus to class and group conference, as it contains discussion questions.

7. Group conferences: There will be two types of group conferences: directed and open. For directed conferences, you will be given questions and asked to discuss them in small groups. For open conferences, you will be asked to submit at least one question for discussion 24 hours before your conference. On occasion, we may substitute a film or a speaker for a round of group conferences. Those unable to attend the film screening or speaker should view it in the library on their own and submit a one-page summary within one week.

8. Questions? If you are confused about your assignments, please consult the latest set of review questions, which will be distributed online and posted on MySLC. If you have other questions, please email me at kchristensen@slc.edu.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS
Readings will tend to “run ahead” of lectures. All required and many recommended articles are on MySLC.

I. Introduction: Conceptual framework for the course
What determines the status of women in a given society?
The role of: sex/gender systems, economic systems, racial/ethnic systems, religion and other variables.

Recommended (Rec): hooks, “Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression”
Rec: Rich, “Towards a Politics of Location”
Rec: Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes, Revisited: Feminist Solidarity Through Anti-Capitalist Struggle”
Rec: Hartsock, “The Feminist Standpoint”

II.A. Gender and Economics in the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) Confederation
The relationship of Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) women’s economic position to their social and political status
READ: Amott/Mattheai (A/M) Ch.3: “I Am the Fire of Time: American Indian Women”
The impact of Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) political/social structures on American colonial women
READ: Gunn Allen, Paula, “Who is Your Mother? The Red Roots of White Feminism” 2005

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE IROQUOIS #1
1) Describe the economic/political position of Seneca (Iroquois) women before the arrival of white colonists. Contrast this with the position of women in white colonial culture.
2) Contrast the two cultures’ economic organizations.
3) Describe the forces that eroded the position of the Seneca, especially Seneca women.
4) What evidence is there that traces of Seneca women’s older roles survive in their culture?
*5) Describe several factors that gave Seneca women relatively equal political/economic power with men.

II. B. Gender and Sexuality in the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) Confederation
“Berdache” (Two-Spirit People)
Highly Rec: Jacobs, Sue-Ellen, Wesley Thomas, and Sabine Lang, Two Spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality, Univ. of Illinois, 1997. (Anthology by Native Americans)
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE IROQUOIS #2
1. Describe the relationship between biological sex, gender identification, and sexual orientation among the Iroquois. 
2. How do Iroquois funeral/burial customs exemplify this complex relationship?
3. What aspects of Iroquois society/economy encourage the development of this system?
4. How did white colonists react to these Iroquois traditions? Discuss the consequences.

III. White women in the colonial American political economy
Petty commodity production and women’s unpaid labor
Economic systems, labor demand and fertility: The case of Puritan New England

READ: A/M 5: “Whatever Your Fight, Don't Be Ladylike: European American Women”
READ: Folbre, “Patriarchy in Colonial New England”

ESSAY #1: Contrast the situation/status of women in the Iroquois Nations prior to the arrival of white colonists with that of Puritan women in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Explain, in detail, the factors/ institutions that account for their disparate positions.

IV. African American women under slavery in the U.S. South
Ascendant industrial capitalism and US slavery; The triangular trade
Economic systems, labor demand, sexual violence and fertility: The case of the antebellum South
The gendered division of labor under US slavery

READ: A/M 6: “We Specialize in the Wholly Impossible: African American Women”
READ: Davis, ch. 1, 2, 3.
READ: Grey-White, Deborah, “Female Slaves: Sex Roles & Status in the Plantation South,” D/R.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS on the GENDERED DIVISION OF LABOR UNDER SLAVERY
1. Why did slaveowners work female slaves so hard that they increased infant mortality and thereby did not maximize their profits?
2. Why did slaveowners impose a strict gender division of labor in the skilled crafts but not in fieldwork?
3. Davis argues that “the salient theme emerging from domestic life in slave quarters is one of sexual equality,” (18). Farnham argues, “[A]lthough women took pride in their strength and competence, their labor . . . represented double duty, not power parity,” (A/M, 147). With whom do you agree and why?
4. Describe the ideologies about African American female sexuality that arose to justify the rape of slave
women by their owners. Are these ideologies still active in US politics and popular culture? Discuss.

V. White women in the transition to capitalism in New England: Salem witchcraft trials
De facto theocracy, gender roles, and economic change: The case of Salem

READ: Kessler-Harris, ch. 2 of Out to Work, “From Household Manufactures to Wage Work”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE 1692 SALEM WITCHCRAFT TRIALS
*1. Using material on the religious context, the sexual/reproductive context, and economic change, explain the Salem trials of 1692.
2. Discuss the ways in which the coming of capitalism changes gender roles and family relations. Why are women often targeted/scapegoated during such transitions?
3. Discuss ways in which capitalism is/is not compatible with religious ideologies, practices, and institutions. How can religion serve to solidify/support capitalism and/or serve as bases of resistance?
4. Were you were raised in a religious tradition? If so, what were its views on economics? On social justice? On gender? How were these views operationalized/practiced (or not)?

ESSAY #2: Using lecture material and, if you wish, recommended readings, describe the context of, and the reasons for, the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692.

VI. White middle-class women and the cult of true womanhood
Industrialization and the “public/private split”; Commodification, superfluous labor and infantalization

Rec: Gilman, Charlotte Perkins, The Yellow Wallpaper, (any edition)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON WELTER & CRITIQUES BY RUPP, ROBERTS, HEWITT & GUY
1. Welter says that the white, middle class American man had turned the “shining city on a hill” into a counting-house, but he left behind a hostage to the values he held so dear. Gilmore says that the new middle class declared itself primarily through its gender arrangements. Discuss the relationship between the rise of the new urban middle class and the ideals of the cult of true womanhood. How did these ideals flow from and help to reproduce the realities of urban middle class life in the 1800s?
2. What were the four virtues advocated by the cult? How did middle class women attempt to function within its constraints? Do you see remnants of these “virtues” in current-day definitions of femininity?
3. Today, as in the 1800s, most women do not have the option of being “angels in the parlor.” How does the cult impact women who are unable, for economic, racial, other reasons, to live by its precepts?
4. Welter/Hewitt discuss the participation of “true women” in social movements from abolitionism to
suffrage. Discuss the pros/cons of using true womanhood ideology as a launching pad for social activism.

**ESSAY #3:** Describe the relationship between the changes in white women’s economic position and their changing social roles in the early to mid-1800s.

**VII. Black and white women in the abolitionist movement; The birth of the US women's movement**
The promise and betrayal of Reconstruction; The Equal Rights Association and its demise

**READ:** Davis, Ch. 4,7.
**Rec:** Aptheker, Bettina, *Woman’s Legacy*, Univ. of Mass./Amherst, 1981.
**Rec:** Goldfield, Michael, *The Color of Politics*, ch. 4, “Reconstruction”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON RECONSTRUCTION & THE ERA**
1. Describe the economic circumstances in the North and South at the end of the Civil War.
3. Why was the fall of Reconstruction one of the crucial “turning points” in American history?

**ESSAY #4:** Answer BOTH A & B: A. Recount the purpose of, plans for, and reasons for the failure of Reconstruction. (Include the relevant economic context.) AND B. Describe the Kraditor/DuBois vs. the Aptheker/Lerner/Davis positions on the advisability of the split of the ERA. With whom do you agree? Why?

**VIII. Mexican American/Chicana women in the Southwest**
The relationship of US labor demand to US immigration policy; The “Americanization” campaigns

**VIII.A. The “Americanization” Campaigns of the Early 1900s**
**READ:** A/M 4: “The Soul of Tierra Madre: Chicana Women”
**READ:** Sanchez, George, “Go After the Women: Americanization & Mexican Immigrants”
**Rec:** Garcia, “The Growth of Chicana Feminist Discourse”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON SANCHEZ**
1. What were the “Americanization” programs? Who were its primary targets? Why?
2. Describe the function of the family in traditional Mexican-American life.
3. Why did immigration escalate from 1910 to 1930? How did this affect Mexican-Am. communities?
4. How did restrictionists, nativists, employers, and Americanists respond to the increase in immigration?
5. Who were the primary actors in the Americanization programs? Describe their philosophies.
6. Were work/family conflicts addressed by the Americanization programs? Why or why not?
7. How did food/diet and hygiene become tools of social control?
8. Discuss the views of Americanization workers re: family size and population growth.
9. Why did the programs stress employment outside of the home? What type of jobs were viewed as appropriate for Mexican-American women?  
10. Why did the Americanization programs fail?

VIII.B. The United Farm Workers as Union and Civil Rights Organization
READ: Tejada-Flores, Rick, “The United Farm Workers”
Rec: Garcia, Matthew, From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez, Cal., 2012.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE UFW & RELATED
1. What is the Wagner Act? Who is left out of Wagner & why? What is Taft-Hartley? What types of activities does Taft prohibit? Do these restrictions apply to agricultural workers? Why?
2. Describe the UFW’s grape and lettuce boycotts; the major victory for the UFW in 1969.
3. What is CALRA? Discuss the costs and benefits of relying on legislation/regulation like CALRA.
4. Discuss the factors responsible for the demise of the UFW.

VIII.C. Immigration reform and the “Dreamers”

ESSAY #5: Choose A, B, OR C:
A. Describe, in some detail, the fluctuations in the U.S. government’s treatment of Mexican immigrants from 1910 to the present. Discuss the reasons for these fluctuations. OR
B. Explain, in detail, how this country’s migrant agricultural labor force was established. OR
C. Describe the origin of, tactics of, and successes of, the United Farm Workers. Describe reasons for the rapid fall in the UFW’s membership and influence.

IX. Women’s labor and anti-poverty activists
A short history of women in the early US labor movement: The AFL, the Knights, and the Wobblies

IX.A. Triangle and its aftermath

IX.B. The Strengths and Contradictions of Cross-Class Gender Solidarity: The WTUL
READ: Dye, “Creating a Feminist Alliance: Sisterhood and Class Conflict in the NY WTUL 1903-1914”
Rec: Dye, Nancy, As Equals & Sisters: Feminism, the Labor Movement & the NY WTUL, Missouri, 1980.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE WTUL
1. Describe the numbers and job distribution of women workers in NYC in 1900.
2. Describe the goals and membership of the WTUL.
3. Describe the special problems of organizing women workers in this era. Why was the standard AFL model problematic? How did the WTUL attempt to address women's unique difficulties?
4. Describe the pros & cons of AFL affiliation for women workers & the WTUL. Why/How did this shift?
5. Describe the ways in which differing class backgrounds caused problems within the WTUL. How did the WTUL attempt to deal with the issues of working class leadership?
6. Discuss the pros & cons of cross-class organizations such as the WTUL. In what ways are conflicts within cross-class organizations similar to/different from those in multiracial/ethnic organizations?

IX.C. US Labor Law and the Current State of US Labor
READ: Becker, Craig, “Reconstructing the Right to Organize,” Fall/Winter 1998
Rec: Bronfenbrenner, Kate, No Holds Barred: The Intensification of Employer Opposition to Organizing.
SKIM: Milkman & Luce, (Murphy Center), The State of the Unions 2013: A Profile of Organized Labor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON BECKER, BRODY, ET AL.
1. Review the economic/political context for, purpose of, and major provisions of the Wagner Act.
2. Contrast the underlying philosophies of Wagner vs. Taft-Hartley re: the status and power of workers; re: the proper relationship among the government, unions, and corporations.
3. How did Taft limit the right to self-organization? Contrast the Taft provisions re: secondary boycotts with those re: unfair labor practices such as firing a union supporter.
4. Discuss current proposals to restore the original intent of the Wagner Act.

IX.D. Women in the current US labor movement (Optional section; depends on time.)
READ: Milkman, “Two Worlds of Unionism: Women in the New Labor Movement”
READ: Covert, “How the Rise of Women in Labor Could Save the Movement”
Rec: Cobble, The Other Women’s Movement, ch. 1 – 5.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON MILKMAN
1. Review the union wage & benefit premiums for women. What are other ways in which unions have helped to improve working conditions & wages for women? 2. Discuss several factors that predict a given union’s receptivity to women’s leadership/women’s issues. 3. Review men’s vs. women’s unionization rates. Where are women vs. men union members concentrated? How does this vary (for women) by race?
4. Cite evidence that women may actually be “more organizable” than men.
5. Discuss women’s representation in organizer/leadership roles. What factors account for these differences?

FILM, “Norma Rae” - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON “Norma Rae”
1. Describe the conditions in the mills before the arrival of the TWUA. What was your reaction to the poor white, rural culture portrayed in the movie? 3. What was the reaction of many mill workers to the TWUA organizer? Relate this to the history of union organizing in textiles in the South.
4. Discuss the reaction of the Black vs. the white church re: the union. Why might this be the case?
5. How did the company attempt to use racial divisions to thwart the organizing drive? Discuss.
6. Discuss the anti-Semitism shown by the workers and the company. How did this affect the drive?
7. How was the Wagner Act enforced/not enforced during this drive?
8. Discuss the visit from the national TWUA representatives.
9. Discuss the conflict between Norma Rae & Sonny over housework.
10. Discuss the scene where Norma Rae stands on the table. How do her coworkers react? Why?

IX.E. Triangle Revisited: Rana Plaza and the contradictions of monitoring globalized corporations
READ/VIEW: Huff Po on Bangladesh accords: www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/bangladesh-factory-collapse
READ: New York Times articles on Bangladesh tragedy (Greenhouse and others).
READ: “ILO Statement on the Reform of Bangladesh Labor Law”
Highly Rec: AFL-CIO, “Responsibility Outsourced: Social Audits, Workplace Certification and 20 Years of Failure to Protect Workers’ Rights”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – RANA PLAZA
1. Recount the basic events at Rana Plaza and the factors that contributed to this accident.
2. How do globalization and subcontracting complicate efforts to ensure worker safety?
3. Describe the differences between the Accord & Alliance. Which did most US companies sign? Why?
4. Describe alternative methods of improving working conditions & wages at garment plants in the Global South. How might consumers contribute to these efforts?

ESSAY #6: Choose A, B, OR C:
A. Using lecture material, describe the membership, philosophy, activities, and successes of the Knights of Labor. Briefly describe several reasons for their demise. OR
B. Using both lecture and the written texts, describe the membership, goals, activities, and successes of the WTUL. How was this cross-class organization able to persist for 45 years? OR
C. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of reliance on global monitoring organizations to ensure the safety and well-being of workers in developing nations.

X. The U.S. economy in the late 1800s/early 1900s: The impact on women's economic roles
Monopolization and internationalization
Changes in the labor process and labor control strategies; The impact on the demand for women’s labor
Changes in class structures: The rise of the professional-managerial class

READ: Bowles, Edwards, Roosevelt, Larudee, “U.S. Capitalism: Accumulation and Change” (ch. 7)

ESSAY #7: Describe the changes in the US economy (domestically & internationally) in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Explain the impact on the demand for women’s labor and on women’s occupational position.

XI. Women in the Great Depression
READ: Helmbold, “Beyond the Family Economy: Black & White Working Women During the Depression.”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

1. Why did women’s unemployment rates initially not rise as fast as men’s? How/why did this change?
2. How did politicians, corporate leaders, and male unionists scapegoat women for unemployment? Describe the discrimination against married working women.
3. Describe the changing nature & importance of household labor during the Depression. How did women compensate for the lack of income? How did they earn money? How did their “emotional labor” increase?
4. Explain the changes in Black and white women’s labor force participation rates during the Depression.
5. How does Helmbold critique the portrayals of family harmony during the Depression? Describe the strains put on families when women worked & men did not. Describe the impact on divorce/diversion.
6. Discuss the responsibilities of unmarried daughters to parents. Could they expect reciprocal support?

**XII. Women in the Great Depression vs. The Great Recession**


**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE ARRA**

1. Using lecture material and the CAP report, summarize the basic provisions of the ARRA.
2. Using lecture material, describe the work programs of the New Deal.
3. How did feminist economists and historians assess the successes and failures of the New Deal work programs with respect to women and/or people of color? What recommendations did they make to President-elect Obama to avoid these problems in the ARRA? To what extent were they successful?

**ESSAY #8: Choose A or B:**

A. Critique the claim that the 2008 economic crisis was a “man-cession.” Describe the impact of the 2008 crisis on American women. OR  B. Describe the demands made by feminist economists and historians re: the ARRA. What were the major problems with the ARRA? In what ways was the ARRA more favorable (or not) for women and/or people of color than similar legislation from the 1930s?

**XIII. World War II: Impact on women's economic and social roles**

XIII.A. “Rosie the Riveter” and the changes in women’s economic roles
READ: Milkman, “Redefining ‘Women’s Work’: Sexual Division of Labor in the Auto Industry in WWII”
FILM: “The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter”

XIII.B. Jewish labor and the economics of the Holocaust
READ: Pagenstecher, “We Were Treated Like Slaves: Remembering Forced Labor for Nazi Germany”
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON KAPLAN RE: JEWISH WOMEN IN NAZI GERMANY
1. Describe the demographics of German Jews in the early 1930s. What percent of the population was Jewish? Describe their occupational and educational status. Were they “assimilated”? Explain.
2. Describe the Nazi boycotts; the April expulsion laws; the Nuremberg Laws; Kristallnacht (Crystal Night). Describe the impact of these and similar laws on Jewish lives and livelihoods.
3. Describe ways in which the increasing anti-Semitism disproportionately affected Jewish women.
4. How did Jewish women respond to the increasing financial, educational, and other hardships?
5. Why were Jewish women more likely to support emigration? Why were men more likely to emigrate?

ESSAY #9: Answer A AND B:
A. Using lecture material, describe several factors that contributed to the rise of Nazism. AND
B. Describe the scope and impact of German forced/slave labor.

XIII.C. THE IMPACT OF WWII ON THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
The economics of internment; The impact on Japanese American women and families
FILM: “Mitsuye and Nellie” Rec: Otsuka, Julie, When the Emperor was Divine, Anchor, 2003

ESSAY #10: Choose A OR B:
A. Describe the reasons for, and economic impact of, Executive Order 9066. OR
B. Using Matsumoto, describe the impact of camp life on women internees.

XIII.D. WAR AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: THE “COMFORT WOMEN” OF WWII

Recommended websites: Coalition Against Trafficking in Women: http://www.catwinternational.org/
Gabriela: Alliance of Filippino Women: http://www.gabrielaph.com/

XIII.E. THE IMPACT OF WWII: THE SEEDS OF THE WOMEN’S AND LGBT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
READ: Berube, Allan, “Coming Out Under Fire”
READ: D’Emilio, John, “Capitalism & Gay Identity”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON BERUBE
1a) Describe the treatment of publicly identified lesbians/gay men during WWII. 1b) What was a “blue discharge”? What were its implications for postwar life? 1c) Were anti-gay policies always enforced? Why?
3a) Describe the treatment of lesbians/gays after WWII: in the military, government, schools and universities. 3b) Why did the climate re: lesbians & gays, women, and people of color shift after the war?
4) How did the purges and discrimination contribute to the emergence of the lesbian/gay liberation movement? List some of the early organizations.

*5) SUM: How did WWII & its aftermath contribute to the development of the modern LGBT movement?

**ESSAY #11:** List and explain several ways in which WWII contributed to the rise of the American LGBT liberation movement(s).
XIV. Feminism in the Mid-20th Century

1. Radical Feminism
READ: Morgan, “Goodbye to All That” & READ: Dworkin, “Marx and Gandhi were Liberals”
Rec: MacKinnon, “Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory”
Rec: Brownmiller, “Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape”

2. Lesbian Feminism
READ: Radicalesbians, “The Woman-Identified Woman”
READ: Bunch, “Lesbians in Revolt”

3. Women of Color Feminism
READ: Smith, et al., Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement”
READ: Moraga, “La Guera” and “A Long Line of Vendidas”
READ: Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House”

4. Socialist Feminism
READ: Rubin, “The Traffic in Women”
Rec: Hartman, “Capitalism, Patriarchy, and Job Segregation by Sex”

XV. The LGBT Movement from mid-century
Tape: Ma Rainey, “Prove It On Me Blues” and Bessie Jackson, “BD Women”

XV.1. The evolution of LGBT legal rights
READ: Handout (found at end of syllabus) on relevant Supreme Court decisions, case law, etc.

XV.2. AIDS and the LGBT movement
Tape: Malliaris, Tony, “Storm the NIH!”; Rec: (films) “United in Anger” and “How to Survive a Plague”

XV.3. Marriage equality: Beyond Marriage
Rec: NY Times summary of Obergefell v. Hodges decision;
Rec: Graff, “What’s So Radical About Same Sex Marriage?”
Rec: Stein, “What’s Wrong with Newark? Race, Class, Marriage Politics, and the Limits of Queer Liberalism” Rec: Duggan, “Beyond Marriage”; Rec: Interview with Amber Holibaugh:

XV.4. Trans and the definition of gender
Rec: Christensen, “Thank God! Thought You were Converting to Socialism!”
Rec: Bornstein, Kate, My Gender Workbook, 2nd ed., Routledge, 2013.
Rec: Currah, Paisley, Richard Juang, and Shannon Minter, Transgender Rights, Univ. of Minn., 2006

ESSAY #12: How do the experiences & politics of transgender people illuminate/challenge our definitions of gender? What do they tell us about the changing politics of the LG(BT) movement?
XVI. Asian American Women
Immigration law; Gendered immigration and women’s status; Commonalities and diversity

XVI.A. Chinese American Women
Legal restrictions & impact on family structure: The Gum Shan Poo; Sex work & the question of trafficking

READ: Handout on legal restrictions on Chinese immigrants (found later in syllabus) 
READ: Yung, Judy, “Unbound Feet: Chinese American Women in the Public Sphere”
READ: A/M 7: “Climbing Gold Mountain: Asian American Women”

ESSAY #13: Describe the legal/political/economic restrictions placed on Chinese immigrants. (Do not reproduce the handout! Just give examples of the most important types of laws/restrictions.) Describe the impact of these restrictions on family structure & sexuality in early Chinese American communities.

XVI.B. Women from the Indian Sub-Continent
READ: Bhalla, “Couch Potatoes and Super-Women: Gender, Migration and the Emerging Discourse on Housework Among Asian Indian Immigrants”
READ: Sayeed, “Chappals & Gym Shorts: An Indian Muslim Woman in the Land of Oz”
READ: Handout of “Countries of Origin of Legal Immigrants” (found later in syllabus)
Highly rec: Kabeer, Huq, and Malmud, “Diverging Stories of ‘Missing Women’ in South Asia” (Fem. Econ)
Rec: Sinha, “Gender in the Critiques of Colonialism and Nationalism: Locating the ‘Indian Woman”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON BHALLA
1. How did immigration change the economic status of the women in Bhalla’s study? How did this impact their views on the division of household labor? 2. How did the women’s class position affect their views on housework? 3. How did dominant views about men sharing housework change over the course of her study? 4. How did the debates over housework interact with debates over loyalty to homeland/home culture? 5. “Migration’s dislocations provide women with new opportunities to renegotiate power and recreate family patterns in ways that are favorable to them.” Discuss.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON SAYEED
1. What would Sayeed’s “capitulation” to an arranged marriage or wearing hijab symbolize to her father? To her? How does western education complicate relationships between immigrant parents and children?
2. Discuss the pros and cons for Sayeed of “assimilation” into western gender norms. Discuss the complications of these ongoing negotiations.
3. Discuss Sayeed’s relationship to her (predominantly white, American) feminist community. How is she learning to “dissect” their models western feminism?

XVI.C. Women from Predominantly Muslim Countries
Rec: Braunstein, “Patriarchy vs. Islam: Gender & Religion in Economic Growth” (Fem.Econ)
Rec: Spierings, “The Influence of Patriarchal Norms, Institutions, and Household Composition on Women’s Employment in 28 Muslim-Majority Countries” (Fem.Econ.)
Rec: Shalhoub, Woodsum, Zu’bi, and Busbridge, “Funding Pain: Bedouin Palestinian Women and Political Economy in the Naqab/Negev” (Fem.Econ.)
Rec: Kumar, “Political Islam: A Marxist Analysis”

REVIEW/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS on Intro. to FEM ECON SPECIAL ISSUE
1. What is Orientalism? How has it affected the West’s approach to military and development policies?
2. What percent of the world’s population is Muslim? of the global South? How many countries have Muslim majorities? will be majority Muslim by 2030? What percent of Muslims are Arabs? Where are Muslims concentrated geographically?
3. Describe the diversity of global Muslim countries re: a) their past experiences with colonialism; b) the level of per capita income and poverty; c) women’s (official) labor force participation rates; d) the adoption of western/colonial, secular/modern, and sharia law.
5. Describe & critique a neoliberal approach to development.
6. Describe several issues of contention re: NGOs in poor countries.
7. What is a capabilities approach? How does it differ from standard approaches to development? Describe a human rights approach to development and what that would entail.
8. Critique the “facile link” often made between women’s employment outside the home and women’s empowerment. What other factors need to be taken into account?
9. Describe the standard bargaining power model of household negotiation. On what factors does a woman’s bargaining power depend? How does the article complicate this theory? Describe the impact of divorce laws.
10. What is the Index of Patriarchal Dominance? What are patriarchal rents? How do they impact economic growth?
11. Describe the pros and cons of the Universal Breadwinner vs. Caretaker Parity Models.

FILM: “Feminism, Inshallah”
Guest Speaker: Shemeem Abbas, “Liberal Democracy, Militarism, Gender Apartheid & Sharia in Pakistan”
Rec: Interview of Leila Ahmed re: hijab: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_CTrbVqWW0

ESSAY #14: Choose A OR B.
A. Using specific examples from the Bhalla, Sayeed, and other readings, discuss the impact of immigration on the gender/sexual customs of immigrant families from the Indian subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh).
B. Using the readings, sketch an outline for a feminist theory of development. How would you measure “development”? What factors, institutions, and practices would you emphasize?

XVII. Puerto Rican women on the island and the mainland
Spanish and American colonialism; Operation Bootstrap & transformation of the Puerto Rican economy
Immigration and the sterilization campaign; Recent changes in the Puerto Rican economy
The impact of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico's economy and politics
READ: A/M 8: “Yo Misma Fui Mi Ruta (I Was My Own Path)”
Rec: Azize-Vargas, “The Emergence of Feminism in Puerto Rico” in D/R.

Hurricane Maria and Its Aftermath

**READ:** Horowitz, "Hurricane Maria is a Nightmare for Puerto Rico's Economy":

**READ:** Santos-Lozada, "Why Puerto Rican Death Toll is So Much Higher . . ."

**READ:** Bram/Thomas, "Beginning to Gauge Maria's Effect on Puerto Rico's Economy," NY Fed, 01/12/18

**READ:** Walsh, "Hurricane Aid has Eased Puerto Rico's Finances; It May Not be Enough," NYT 04/19/18

**READ:** Mazzei, "Protest in Puerto Rico Over Austerity Measures" NYT 05/01/18

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS on LUGO LUGO**

1. Describe the changes in the Puerto Rican economy since the 1980s. How did these changes impact women’s economic and educational roles? Women’s family roles and labors? Discuss Lugo Lugo’s contradictory feelings towards the women in her mother’s generation.

2. How did Madonna help Lugo-Lugo to question traditional gender dichotomies and to “reinterpret and reconceptualize gender roles”? In what ways does she see Madonna as “contesting patriarchy”?

3. The popularity of Madonna has to be understood in the context of the colonial relationship between the US and Puerto Rico. In what ways has Puerto Rican culture been influenced by US culture? In what ways has it resisted the domination of US culture?

4. Discuss Lugo Lugo’s “rebellions” such as refusing the third sacrament and dressing like Madonna. How does her family react?

5. Lugo-Lugo’s grandfather is upset when she discusses the possibility of marrying a Black man. Discuss the history of race relations on the Island and the impact of US (mainland) racism.

*6. Discuss both the positives and negatives of Madonna being a role model for Puerto Rican girls.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS on AZIZE-VARGAS**

1. Describe the status of women’s education under Spanish colonialism. How did it change with the US invasion?

2. How did the devaluation of the peso affect people’s economic status? Describe the impact on women.

3. How did WWI affect women’s employment? Describe the discrimination women experienced in the garment and tobacco industries. Describe women’s experiences organizing in tobacco; describe their demands.

4. Describe the origins and demands of the Puerto Rican Feminine League. How did these differ from the demands of the working class women?

5. Describe the struggles over enforcing the 19th amendment in Puerto Rico. What was the basis of the opposition? How did ties with North American feminists influence this struggle?

**ESSAY #15: CHOOSE A OR B OR C:**

A. Summarize the reasons for, and results of, Operation Bootstrap. Discuss the relationship between Bootstrap and the US/Island government campaign to sterilize Puerto Rican women.

B. Describe the fiscal situation on the Island before Maria. What led to this situation? Describe Promesa.

C. Discuss the federal response to Hurricane Maria and the probable long-run impact on the economy.

**XVIII. The Growth of the 20th c. Women’s Movement(s)**

Changes in women's paid and unpaid labor in the 20th century

The relationship of the women's movement to the civil rights & new left/anti-war movements of the 1960s

**READ:** Evans, Sara, *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women’s Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement*


**ESSAY #16:** Summarize & critique Evans’ argument re: the rise of the feminist movement at mid-century.

**XX. GLOBAL FEMINISM**

READ: Bunch, “Women’s Human Rights: From Slogan to Global Agenda”

READ: “An Activist Temperament: An Interview with Charlotte Bunch”

(re)READ: Rich, “Towards a Politics of Location”

READ: Stansell, Ch. XI, “Global Feminism: The Age of Reagan & Beyond”

READ: Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes, Revisited: Feminist Solidarity Through Anti-Capitalist Struggle”


Rec: Beneria, Lourdes, et al., Intro to special issue of Feminist Economics on Globalization and Gender.
LGBT – Supreme Court Decisions, Case Law, etc.

Sodomy laws: Sodomy originally referred to any non-procreative sexual acts. Over time, sodomy laws came to be associated with same-sex partners and were rarely enforced against others. Every state adopted sodomy laws, either directly or via the adoption of English common law which prohibited sodomy.
--In 1961, the Illinois legislature revised their criminal code without prohibiting sodomy.
--By 1970, 21 more states had repealed their sodomy laws, often while modernizing their legal codes.
--1986 Bowers v. Hardwick: Supreme Court decision upheld the constitutionality of sodomy laws.
--2003: Lawrence v. Texas: Overturned Bowers v. Hardwick, invalidating the sodomy laws in the remaining fourteen states that had them (Utah, Idaho, Michigan & 11 southern states). (ABA 2015)

LGBs in the military: 1993 President Clinton signed into law “Don’t ask; Don’t tell,” theoretically lifting the ban on LGB in the military that had been in force since WWII. (Those who remained closeted were supposedly safe from prosecution and dishonorable discharge.) Enforcement proved difficult and discriminatory; President Obama signed legislation repealing DADT, which ended in 2011.

ENDA Employment Non-Discrimination Act
--Research by Lee Badgett (Williams Institute) found that gay men who work fulltime make an average 17% less than heterosexual men of the same age, race, education, location & occupation.
--ENDA is proposed legislation that would prohibit discrimination in hiring and promotion on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Currently, 17 states and DC prohibit discrimination based on both orientation and identity, and four prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation alone; i.e., trans persons are not covered. (Wash.Post 7/8/15)
--ENDA was first introduced in Congress in 1994 by Gerry Studds (D-MA) & Ed Kennedy (D-MA). Barney Frank (D-MA) succeeded in getting it passed in the House in 2007, but it failed to pass the Senate.
--The 2014 SCOTUS Burwell v. Hobby Lobby decision stated that corporations may be exempt from a law if the owners have a religious objection to it; (in this case, the birth control provisions of the ACA). Since then, the ACLU and many LGBT groups have withdrawn their support from ENDA, fearing that “religious objection” provisions in the bill might render it worse than useless.
The recent passage of “religious freedom” acts in Indiana & Arkansas has increased concern.

Marriage equality: www.freedomtomarry.org/states/
--1970 Baker vs. Nelson: Minnesota Supreme Court decided against Jack Baker (who had applied for a license to marry his long-term, male partner); The Court ruled that laws and policies restricting marriage to “opposite sex” partners are constitutional.
--1993 Baehr v. Miike: Supreme Court of Hawai’i ruled that the state must demonstrate a “compelling interest” to prohibit marriages of “same sex” couples.
--1996 DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act). In response to Baehr v. Miike, DOMA allowed states to refuse to honor marriage licenses among “same sex” couples that had been granted in other states. And DOMA prohibited federal recognition of such marriages for purposes of benefits, etc.
--US v. Windsor: June 26, 2013: SCOTUS ruled that DOMA’s restriction of marriage to “opposite sex” couples was unconstitutional under the Due Process clause of the 5th amendment.
--Obergfell v. Hodges: June 26, 2015: SCOTUS rules that, under the 14th Amendment, states must recognize marriages, including same-sex marriages, performed in other states.

"Religious freedom" vs. LGBT rights: Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The Court held that the Colorado CRC had shown "hostility" towards the baker based on his religious beliefs and that he was not legally required to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple if it conflicted with his "sincere religious beliefs."
Examples of Anti-Chinese Legislation and Court Cases

1854 - People v. Hall. Testimony restriction: The California Supreme Court rules that the testimony of a Chinese man who witnessed a murder by a white man is inadmissible.

1852 - Foreign Miner’s License Tax. This California tax law requires a payment of $3 each month from all foreign miners. While in force, the tax extracts $5 million from Chinese miners, supplying 25% to 50% of all state revenue.

1870 – San Francisco Sidewalk Ordinance prohibits transporting goods on “yeo-ho” poles slung across the shoulders. Gongs may not be rung at theatrical performances, and no plays may be performed between midnight and daylight.

1875 - Asian Exclusion Act (Immigration Act of 1875) prohibits importation of Chinese who do not voluntarily consent to work in the US and of Chinese women for the purposes of prostitution; used to prevent single women from entering.

1882 - Chinese Exclusion Act. Suspends the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S. It is the first U.S. restriction on immigration based on race and nationality. The Chinese American community used the American court system to challenge this and similar laws; the findings from these cases continue to be cited in U.S. constitutional law.

1886 - Yick Wo v. Hopkins. The first case in which Supreme Court rules that a law that was race-neutral on its face but administered in a prejudicial manner was an infringement of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

1885 - Tape v. Hurley. Immigrants Joseph & Mary Tape not permitted to enroll their U.S.-born daughter Mamie in a SF public school. Cal. Sup. Ct. decides in their favor; one of the pioneering decisions in the fight for equality in education.

1888 - Scott Act prohibits the reentry of a Chinese laborer unless he has property worth $1,000 or family in the country. The Act reclassifies all persons of Chinese ancestry, regardless of citizenship, as Chinese and subject to exclusion.

1892 - Geary Act requires all Chinese residents, including children, to carry a government-issued photo ID at all times.

1892 - The Chinese Equal Rights League is formed and stages acts of civil disobedience to protest the Geary Act.

1898 - Wong Kim Ark v. U.S. Birthright citizenship. Upholds the rights of citizenship conferred by the 14th Amendment upon all persons born in the U.S. regardless of race.


1917 – Immigration Act of 1917 designates an " Asiatic Barred Zone," including China, much of eastern Asia, and the Pacific Islands, from which people cannot immigrate.

1922 - Cable Act. Any American woman who marries "an alien ineligible for citizenship shall cease to be a citizen.

1924 National Origins Act sets immigration quotas at 2% of the 1890 population figures, favoring northern Europeans.

1928 - Gong Lum v. Rice et al. Supreme Court decides that Martha Lum, a US-born child, was not denied equal protection by being classified as a “colored” person; the state had the right to assign her to a segregated school.

1933 - NYC City Council passes an ordinance requiring one-person laundries to pay a $25 annual fee and to post a $1000 bond. Laundry owners form the Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance convinced the Council to reduce the fee.

1943 - Chinese Exclusion Act repealed; Chinese given the right to become naturalized citizens with priority given to family members & skilled workers. The 1949 Chinese Revolution increases the number admitted as political refugees.
Countries of Origin of Legal Immigrants to the US, end of 2015

28% Mexico
5% each China, India, Philippines
3% each Vietnam, El Salvador, Cuba, Korea
2% each Dominican Republic, Guatemala
.8% Pakistan
.5% Bangladesh

Unlike the average migrant from Mexico or Central America, legal immigrants from the Indian subcontinent tend to have immigrated more recently, are more likely to have college degrees, and tend to have higher incomes than either the native born or other immigrants. For instance:

Indians
--There are currently over two million legal immigrants from India in the US. Most are fairly recent immigrants; the Indian population in the US has grown over 150 times since 1960.
--Indian Americans are more likely to have college degrees than either the native born or other immigrants; e.g., 75% of Indian immigrant men have at least four years of college and 40% have master’s or doctoral degrees.
--Indian Americans are more likely to work in technical fields (29% of Indian men) or in business and finance (29% of Indian women).
--Indians are the second largest group of foreign students (after Chinese) currently studying in the US.
--The average Indian immigrant family’s annual income is ~$91,000, compared to $51,000 for the rest of the US population.

Pakistanis
--33% of Pakistani immigrants have at least a bachelor’s degree (compared to 20% of the general US population) and 23% have advanced degrees (compared with 11% of the US population).
--The average income of Pakistani immigrant families is ~ $60,000 compared to $51,000 for the general US population.

Bangladeshis
--Like Pakistanis, Bangladeshi immigrants are more than twice as likely to have bachelor’s and advanced degrees as the rest of the US population.
--Bangladeshi American women have lower rates of labor force participation than other US women (39% vs. 58% in 2013). Note that the general rate of women’s LFPR has now fallen to 56.5%.

Immigrants form the Indian subcontinent are less likely than the general population, or other immigrants, to be in poverty. Poverty rates for Indian immigrants, for instance, are 7% compared to 15% for native borns and 20% for all immigrants.
This page intentionally left blank.
Political Economy of Women - Student Information (Feel free to use the back!)

Legal name (on roster):

How would you like to be addressed (“nickname,” etc.):

Year in school:

Phone(s):

Email address(es):

Don:

Please list your primary academic interests/fields (American history, math, art history, etc.):

Have you taken other courses either in economics or in gender studies? If yes, please list.

Is English your first language?

Do you have any disabilities that I should know about? If yes, what accommodations do you require?

What social/political issues concern you the most?

Do you consider yourself to be a feminist? Why or why not?

Anything else I should know about you? Thanks! 😊